

**Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Public Notice of Public Comment
For Guest River Draft TMDL Report**

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) seeks written and oral comments from interested persons on the draft Implementation Plan for the Guest River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Reports for aquatic life (benthic) and recreational use (bacteria). The Guest River impaired segments are in the Clinch River sub-basin, Tennessee River Basin and located in Wise, Dickenson and Russell Counties.

A public meeting for the purpose of reviewing the draft implementation plan for water quality improvements in the Guest River watershed will be held on **November 4, 2004 at 6:00 p.m.** at the Tacoma Community Center. Tacoma Community Center is located in Wise County in the community of Tacoma on Stone Mountain Road approximately 0.2 miles south off of Alt. Route 58 between Coeburn and Norton, Virginia.

The impaired aquatic life use segment extends from Guest River headwaters to Bad Branch, from south of Indian Mountain through Norton and Coeburn. It is 27.65 miles in length. Guest River was identified in Virginia's 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report due to violations of the General Standard for benthic impairment. The bacteria impairments are on Sepulcher Creek, Crab Orchard Branch and Toms and Little Toms Creeks. The TMDL reports for the bacteria and benthic impairments were approved by U.S.EPA in 2002 and 2003.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report. The 1997 Virginia Water Quality Monitoring, Implementation and Restoration Act requires an Implementation Plan for all approved TMDL Reports. The Implementation Plan provides a framework for corrective actions needed to meet the Total Maximum Daily Load reductions so that impaired streams can meet water quality standards.

The public comment period will end on **December 4, 2004**. A copy of the draft Implementation Plan for Guest River watershed is available on the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality website at <http://www.deq.state.va.us/tmdl/tmdlrpts.html>. Or you may request a copy by contacting Nancy T. Norton, P. E., at Department of Environmental Quality, 355 Deadmore Street, P. O. Box 1688, Abingdon, Virginia 24212, telephone (276) 676-4807, Fax (276) 676-4899, or e-mail ntnorton@deq.virginia.gov. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and be addressed to Nancy T. Norton, P. E., Department of Environmental Quality, 355 Deadmore Street, P. O. Box 1688, Abingdon, Virginia

24212, telephone (276) 676-4807, Fax (276) 676-4899, or email ntnorton@deq.virginia.gov.